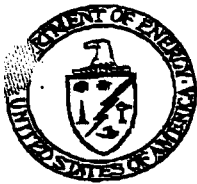


24705



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 25, 2001

Mr. C. Stephen Allred, Director
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

Dear Mr. Allred:

Many thanks for hosting the meeting at your office to address options for moving ahead on our investigation of Pit 9. I received a comprehensive report from Frazer Lockhart and Ellen Livingston on the results of the meeting. I was pleased that, with your help and that of Chuck Findley, we were able to reach agreement on a conceptual path forward—both to resolve the current dispute and to facilitate completion of the overall Waste Area Group 7 CERCLA process. As was discussed, I want to confirm that the Department of Energy (DOE) is willing and able to execute a legitimate Pit 9 retrieval action.

The fundamental topics of agreement regarding Pit 9 are listed below and confirmed by me through this correspondence.

- 1) Use of "mobile excavation" to streamline efforts to characterize waste and target the retrieval of a previously-defined 20' x 20' area to demonstrate retrieval techniques in Pit 9.
- 2) ID/EPA/DOE/BBWI team (one to two people per party) to be formed to:
 - a) Review the BBWI preconceptual design plan for design/construct/operate the retrieval excavation. Preconceptual plan due to team by October 1, 2001. Team will propose a critical few enforceable milestones by October 12, 2001, including assumptions and contingencies.
 - b) Review the waste inventory to identify probing/coring needs and locations for excavation.
- 3) DOE to prepare a pre-1970 summary of Rocky Flats operations and waste records regarding Pit 9 and the Subsurface Disposal Area. The DOE will also interview employees as necessary, former and current, to review past operations.




Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

I believe the actions listed above represent an achievable and effective path forward on Pit 9. While my immediate desire is to resolve the dispute and get on with the Pit 9 cleanup demonstration, my broader goal is to position Pit 9 as the "new model" for focused action within the environmental management program. With our shared effort and focus, I believe that goal is achievable.

Again, thank you again for your part in a productive meeting. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (202) 586-7709.

Sincerely,


Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc:

Mr. Charles Findley, EPA Region 10
Mr. Philip Reberger, Idaho Governor's Office
Mr. Robert Card, Under Secretary, DOE
Ms. Beverly Cook, DOE-ID
Mr. William Shipp, BBWI